

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 DOTE-00 (ISO) W
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R 210900Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3989
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 1290

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID PEPR KU TO
SUBJ: REPORTED ARAB LOAN TO TOGO

1. ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE LOCAL SOURCES, INCLUDING
THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, TOGO HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED A LOAN
OF 40 MILLIARD CFA (APPROX \$174 MILLION). THE LOAN IS
SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY ARAB FINANCIAL INTERESTS. FRENCH
MIDDLEMEN ARE INVOLVED.

2. ONE SOURCE WHO LISTENED TO A CONVERSATION BETWEEN
KUWAITI REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KUWAIT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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FUND AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT AT
LUNCH DURING A NOVEMBER 1977 VISIT SAID THAT THE RECENTLY-
CONCLUDED LOAN IN FACT REPRESENTS KUWAIT MONEY. THE MONEY
IS REPORTEDLY TIED TO TWO PROJECTS: ROUGHLY \$116 MILLION
IS TO BE DEVOTED TO CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT AT NIAMTOUGOU IN THE NORTH NEAR PRESIDENT
EYADEMA'S HOME VILLAGE AND SOME \$58 MILLION IS TO BE

DEVOTED TO EXPANSION OF THE LOME PORT. EXPANSION OF THE PORT WILL CONSIST OF AN ADDITIONAL PIER WITH FIVE QUAY POSITIONS. ALSO A ROAD WILL BE CONSTRUCTED CONNECTING THE PORT WITH THE ATAKPAME ROAD TO ELIMINATE THE NECESSITY FOR LARGE TRUCKS TO GO THROUGH THE CITY OF LOME.

3. THE KUWAITI REPRESENTATIVES WHO VISITED LOME, AT THE INVITATION OF MINISTER OF INFORMATION KWAQVI BENYI JOHNSON, WERE SULTAN ALI BADR EL HUMEIDY AND ABU BAXER A RITIER.

4. THE TERMS OF THE LOAN ARE SAID TO BE NINE PERCENT AT RELATIVELY LONG TERM.

5. COMMENT: PRESIDENT EYADEMA APPEARS TO HAVE MADE A BREAK-THROUGH IN TAPPING CONSERVATIVE ARAB MONEY SUPPLIES. EYADEMA HAS ALSO ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE COURTED BY RADICAL ARABS SUCH AS THE LIBYANS, ALGERIANS AND POLISARIO. THUS, THE NEW CONSERVATIVE ARAB INTEREST IN TOGO UNDOUBTEDLY IS AIMED AT OFFSETTING THESE RADICAL INFLUENCES. (LOCAL REPORTS ARE THAT EYADEMA'S RECENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL, AT LEAST IN TERMS OF PROMISES OF POTENTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.) PALMER

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